

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 NIC-01 DPW-01 /071 W

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R 312141Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3797

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25879

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, FR

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF SVN DISSIDENT FIGURE, LAWYER

NGUYEN LONG

1. SVN EXILE LEADER HO THONG MINH TOLD EMBOFF
OCTOBER 30 THAT LAWYER NGUYEN LONG AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES
HAD COME TO FRANCE FROM HANOI ON FRENCH "SAFE CONDUCT"
DOCUMENTS. THEY ALSO HAD PRG PASSPORTS. WHEN LONG
WISHED TO GO TO GENEVA TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR THE LIBERATION OF PRISONERS IN SVN, HE
AND HIS COLLEAGUES APPLIED FOR NEW FRENCH "SAFE
CONDUCT" DOCUMENTATION WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO
SWISS; GOF GAVE SUCH DOCUMENTATION TO LONG BUT
REFUSED IT TO HIS TWO FRIENDS. ACCORDING TO MINH,
LONG AND SOME PRG FIGURES WENT TO GENEVA; THEY
APPARENTLY ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE, BUT WERE NOT ABLE
TO SPEAK BECAUSE THE SWISS GOVERNMENT HAD BANNED ALL
POLITICAL SPEECHES BY FOREIGNERS ON THE EVE OF THE
REFERENDUM CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS IN
SWITZERLAND. NGUYEN LONG APPARENTLY HAD BROKEN HIS
LEG OR SPRAINED HIS KNEE AND IS STILL IN GENEVA IN A
PLASTER CAST.

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2. MINH SAID THAT AFTER LONG'S VERY POOR SHOWING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, MINH CRITICIZED SEVERELY COL. TRAN DINH LAN AND FATHER NGUYEN DINH THI FOR NOT PREPARING THE CONFERENCE WELL ENOUGH. THEY HAD WRITTEN EVERYTHING THAT NGUYEN LONG WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID, BUT THEY DID NOT GIVE HIM TIME TO MEMORIZE IT -- OR EVEN UNDERSTAND IT. MINH CONTINUED TO THINK THAT LONG WAS REALLY A "PAUVRE TYPE" WHO EVEN WITH THE BEST OF PREPARATION WOULD NOT CUT A DISTINGUISHED FIGURE. HE THOUGHT THAT THE PRG WOULD SOON REALIZE THAT LONG WOULD HAVE LITTLE UTILITY. HIS SAD STATEMENT IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THERE WERE 30 TO 50 "THIRD FORCE" PERSONS IN THE ENTIRE PRG CONTROLLED AREA -- WHICH MAY BE TRUE -- SHOWED HIS INEPTNESS.

3. COMMENT: MINH IS OBVIOUSLY NOT VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE PARIS EXILE CLUB, BUT HIS ACCOUNT OF LONG'S ACTIVITIES IS PROBABLY FAIRLY ACCURATE.
STONE

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